



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
HQ 579<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION  
1500 ARMORY DRIVE  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95401-4389

CADE-EC-CDR

11 July 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE 579TH ENGINEER

SUBJECT: The Battalion Commander's Intent - Family Readiness

1. On 24 May 2003, I assumed command of the 579th Engineer Battalion; a proud battalion rich in history and tradition; with high values and great military pride. Since then our soldiers were mobilized and deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Utah, and here in California. During this short period of time our families have experienced the blessed event of the births of new babies, the sadness of soldiers wounded in combat, and mourned the death of our fallen brothers. The soldiers of the 579th are the soul of the Engineers and could not endure the hardships of these deployments without the love and support of their families. The day I assumed command of this battalion, I spoke of readiness in two areas; the first for all our soldiers to be combat ready and to be proficient in their duties; the second to be family ready, to prepare the families for deployment and to give them the necessary tools to achieve self-sufficiency, through an effective Family Readiness Program. Our soldiers perform better when they know their families are sustained and secure. This next year I will focus on the following areas:

a. Unit Commanders and Leaders - It is the active support of the leadership that makes the Family Readiness program and its sources possible. I expect every officer and non-commissioned officer to ensure Family Readiness is a key component of their team. A Family Readiness Group is a formally recognized and chartered volunteer group that consists of all assigned and attached soldiers (married and single), their spouses, and children. Membership for all military members is automatic, and I fully expect you to support the membership. When I visit or talk with key leadership, Family Readiness will be an item of interest to me. Unit Commanders will provide to me the following items to me not later than 1 September 2004.

(1). A published (written) intent letter outlining your Family Readiness program and how your members can access it to ensure they have the resources needed to enhance the readiness of their families.

(2). The assignment of an effective military point of contact (MPOC) for Family Readiness in every unit down to and including the detachment level.

(3). The opportunity for a viable chain of concern to develop and to be successful within the unit and this command. Volunteers are the heart of the Family Readiness Group and can make a difference in the lives of the members by building trust, optimism, and pride in the units. Unit Family Readiness Volunteers Coordinators must complete the Family Readiness Training Course and have an approved Unit Volunteer Coordinator Agreement on file at the Battalion.

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(4) All soldiers must complete and submit the Family Readiness informational data sheet to their assigned company. Company Commanders will forward a copy of the data sheet to the Battalion S1.

b. As I stated last year, I have asked my wife, , to be the Lead Family Readiness Volunteer Coordinator for the 579th Engineer Battalion. She will continue to work as a lead volunteer and can assist you in coordinating Family Readiness Groups, provide information on benefits and provide training for uncertified coordinators. Louise can be reached at

2. Again, I fully intend to see a fully functional family chain of concern working together with a fully supportive military chain of command. Effective Family Readiness Groups are built by strong, active members, both green and purple. Mission first, families always.

WALTER L.  
Commanding